



*First Sunday after Epiphany*  
*January 8th, 2023*  
*Worship 10:00 a.m.*

Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203  
[www.elkriverucc.org /](http://www.elkriverucc.org/)  
[churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org)

# Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.



We offer worship in-person or via Facebook Live every Sunday at 10am. The recorded broadcast is also available for viewing on our website, following the livestream. You can contact the church at any time. See office hours below.

Please SILENCE cell phones during the service.

The wi-fi password is: stillspeaking1203



## VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

*(Micah 6:8, (NIV))*

## *Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement*



*God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived*

For kids: The **PRAYGROUND** is located in the Vestry (the room off of the sanctuary). Also, in the back of the sanctuary, is a table with items and bags for activities appropriate for the kids to work on and play with during the service. Children are welcome to sit at the table or bring the bag back to sit with parents.

\* Please stand as your body and soul are able.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

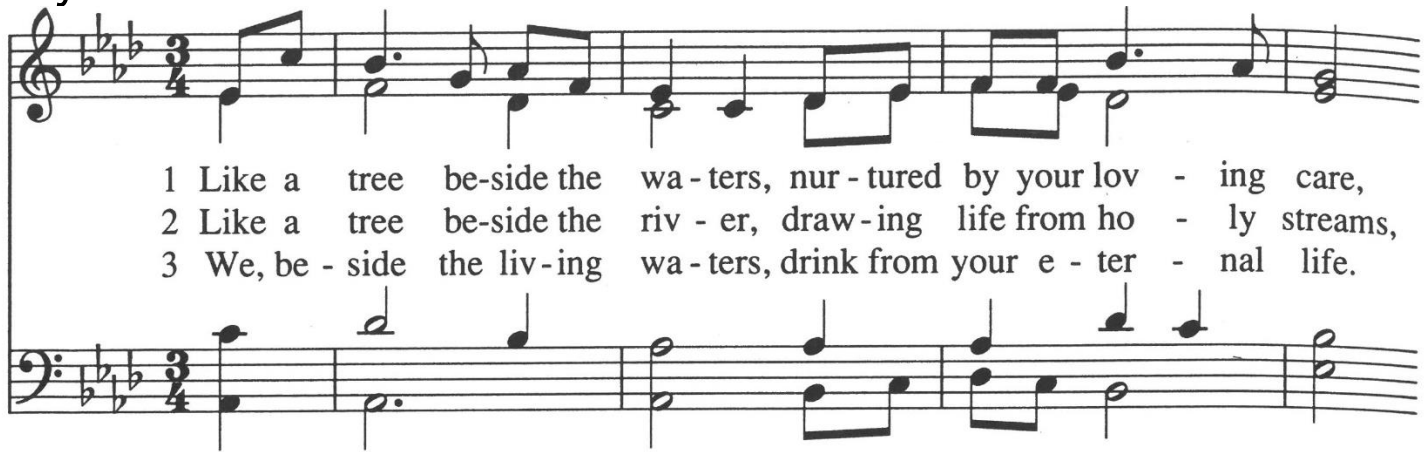
PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

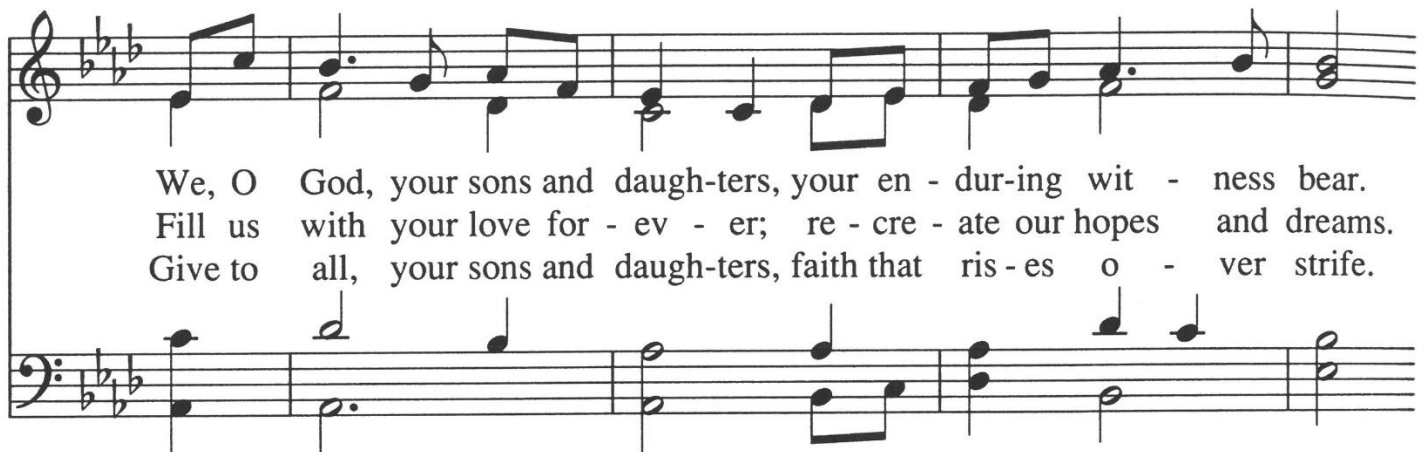
CENTERING PRAYER

Choose the willow of the streams,  
Choose the hazel of the rocks,  
Choose the alder of the marshes,  
Choose the birch of the waterfalls.  
Choose the ash of the shade,  
Choose the yew of resilience,  
Choose the elm of the brae,  
Choose the oak of the sun.

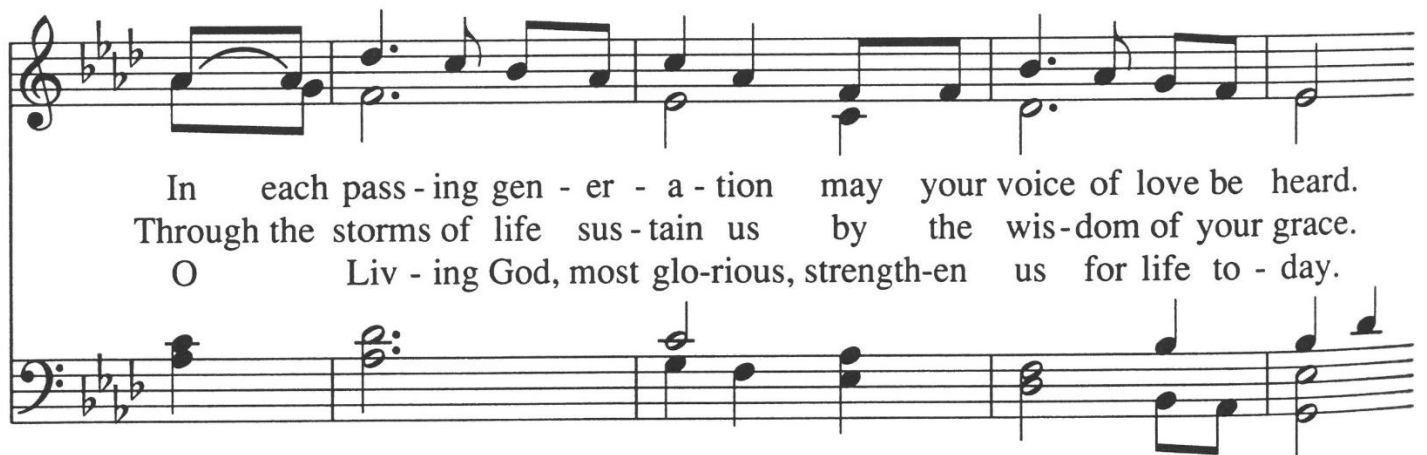
\* Hymn of Adoration #313 Like a Tree Beside the Waters



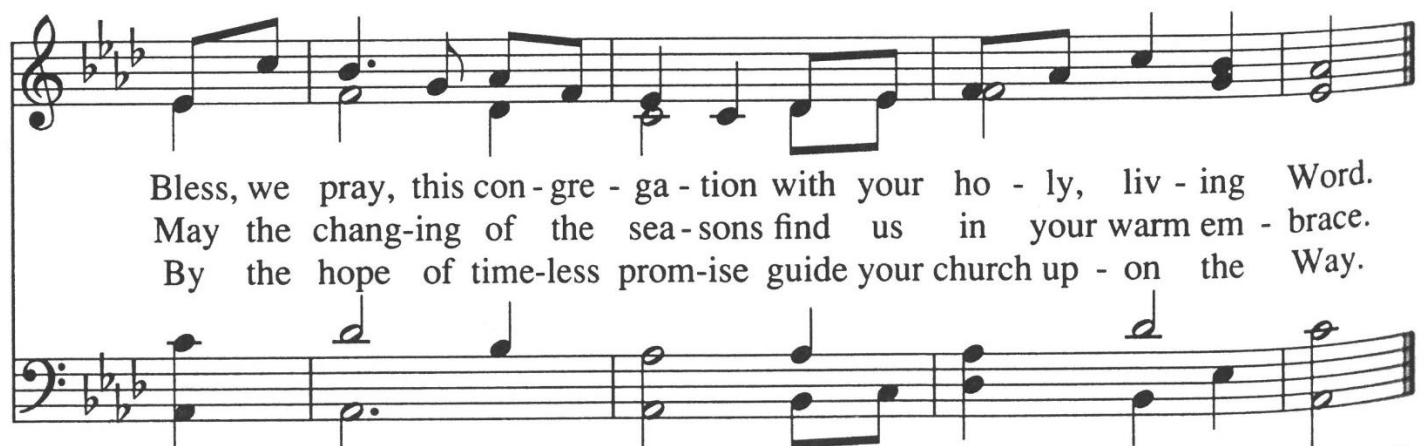
1 Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov - ing care,  
2 Like a tree be-side the riv - er, draw-ing life from ho - ly streams,  
3 We, be - side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e - ter - nal life.



We, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en - dur-ing wit - ness bear.  
Fill us with your love for - ev - er; re - cre - ate our hopes and dreams.  
Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris - es o - ver strife.



In each pass - ing gen - er - a - tion may your voice of love be heard.  
Through the storms of life sus - tain us by the wis - dom of your grace.  
O Liv - ing God, most glo - rious, strength-en us for life to - day.



Bless, we pray, this con - gre - ga - tion with your ho - ly, liv - ing Word.  
May the chang-ing of the sea - sons find us in your warm em - brace.  
By the hope of time-less prom - ise guide your church up - on the Way.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is good

All: all the time.

One: All the time

All: God is good.

## \* Prayer of Adoration (let us pray together)

With open minds and open hearts, we come before you, God. You have shared tremendous news with us: news of the birth of Jesus, news of his baptism, news so incredible that it cannot be contained. We bring together all our resources, all that we are, all that we have, to share the good news. We are called to be more, we are called to be a community of faith, we are called to be the church. Be with us now as we discern your calling, as we discern our discipleship. Amen.

## \* Passing the Peace

As the trees by the river's edge, the bushes in the watershed, and the plants in the garden, we are individuals that drink from the same Source. Like the trees, let us greet each other with warmth and gratitude for the oneness we become in heart of the Spirit.

\* Song Like a Healing Stream by Bruce Harding




1 Like a heal-ing

5 Verse 1



stream in a bar-ren de-sert, Spi-rit wa-ter bring-ing life to dus-ty earth, God is

9



trick-ling through our lives as in a dream un-fol-ding, pro-mi-sing re-vi-val and re-

12 *Sopranos/Altos:*



birth... like a heal-ing stream. 2 Like a gen-tle

17 Verse 2



rain on a thir-sty gar-den, Spi-rit wa-ter come to nour-ish ti-ny seed, God is

21



bub-bling through the soil to coax a new cre-a-tion, year-ning for an end to want and

24



need... like a gen-tle rain.

3 Like a ri-ver strong with a rest less cur- rent, Spi-rit wa-ter ru-shing on to dis-tant

Tenors/Basses: Oo - - - oo - - -

32

shore, God is car-ving out a chan-nel in a new di-rec-tion, cal-ling for an end to hate and  
oo. Ah in a new di-rec-tion, ah

36

war... like a ri-ver strong. 4 Like a migh-ty

- ah, like a ri-ver strong.

41 Verse 4

sea rea-ving far ho - ri- zons, Spi rit wa ter with a love both deep and wide, God is

can tar ho - ri- zons

over



wor-king in our hearts to shape a new to - mor - row: God will al - ways chal - lenge and pro -

48

vide! \_\_\_\_\_ Like a migh - ty sea... \_\_\_\_\_ Like a ri - ver  
sea... \_\_\_\_\_

50

strong... \_\_\_\_\_ Like a gen - tle rain... \_\_\_\_\_ Like a heal - ing stream.  
strong... \_\_\_\_\_ rain... \_\_\_\_\_ Like a heal - ing stream.

## Prayer for Transformation and New Life (let us pray together)

Listening God, when we take the time to see and use and understand the incredible gifts you have shared with us, we are in awe. At the same time, we also realize how we have misused the gifts of your Spirit. When life is happening so fast, we act and speak before we think. We have caused harm by our "off the cuff" remarks. Our actions have led to exclusion. Knowingly and unknowingly we have caused harm. Forgive us our mistakes, forgive our ignorance, forgive us, forgive.... (silent reflection)

## Words of Grace

God watches. God listens to our confessions. God responds out of unconditional love. Allow the Spirit to embrace you and know that you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Special Music

Carson Schneider

Scripture Reading Matthew 3:13-17 (adapt.)

Su Arnold

Reading from the Carmina Gadelica (adapt.)

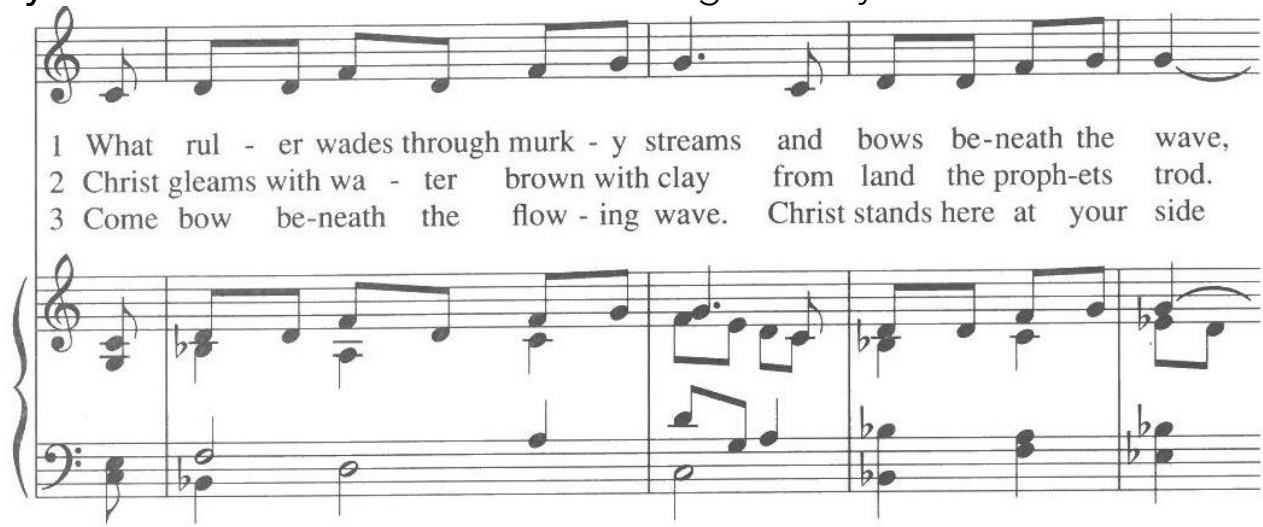
There is no plant in the ground  
But is full of... God's virtue  
There is no form in the strand  
But is full of Her blessing...  
There is no life in the sea,  
There is no creature in the river,...  
There is no bird on the wing,  
There is no star in the sky,  
There is nothing beneath the sun,  
But proclaims Her goodness.

CHILDREN'S TIME

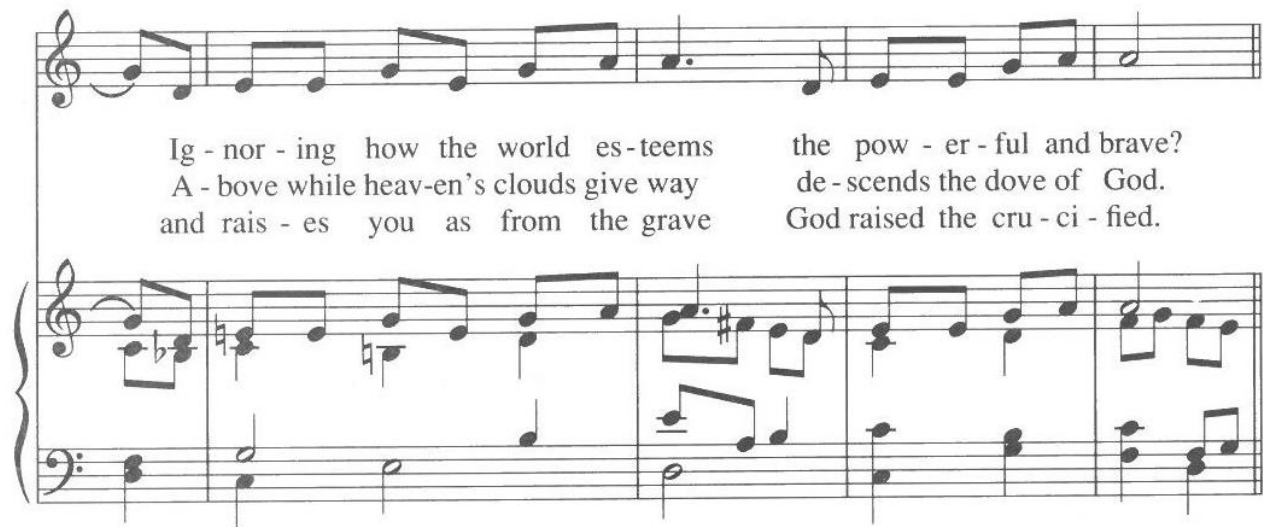
REFLECTION

Rev. Sheri Nelson

# Hymn #169 What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams



1 What rul - er wades through murk - y streams and bows be-neath the wave,  
2 Christ gleams with wa - ter brown with clay from land the proph-ets trod.  
3 Come bow be-neath the flow - ing wave. Christ stands here at your side



Ig - nor - ing how the world es-teems the pow - er - ful and brave?  
A - bove while heav-en's clouds give way de - scends the dove of God.  
and rais - es you as from the grave God raised the cru - ci - fied.

*Refrain*



Wa-ter, Riv - er, Spir - it, Grace, sweep o - ver me, sweep o - ver me!  
Re - carve the depths your fing - ers traced in sculpt - ing me.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Notes:

*New Zealand Lord's Prayer* (let us pray together)

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 Generosity

We are indeed recipients of God's grace and generosity. God loves us and affirms us. But, in receiving, we are also called to give, to share, and to live lives of gratitude. Baptism reminds us that ordinary gifts can do extraordinary things. Baptism inspires us to use our gifts not knowing how they might transform. Our offerings of time, talent, and money will gratefully be received. Now is the opportunity to share your gifts to further the church's work and the Spirit's mission.


\* DOXOLOGY #778 (tune from #780)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (let us pray together)

Gracious God, bless what we offer this day. These gifts, though ordinary, are given in response to your extraordinary love for us. Through your Spirit, may these gifts be transformed to reveal your extraordinary love and may your love be shared in all that we say and do. Amen.

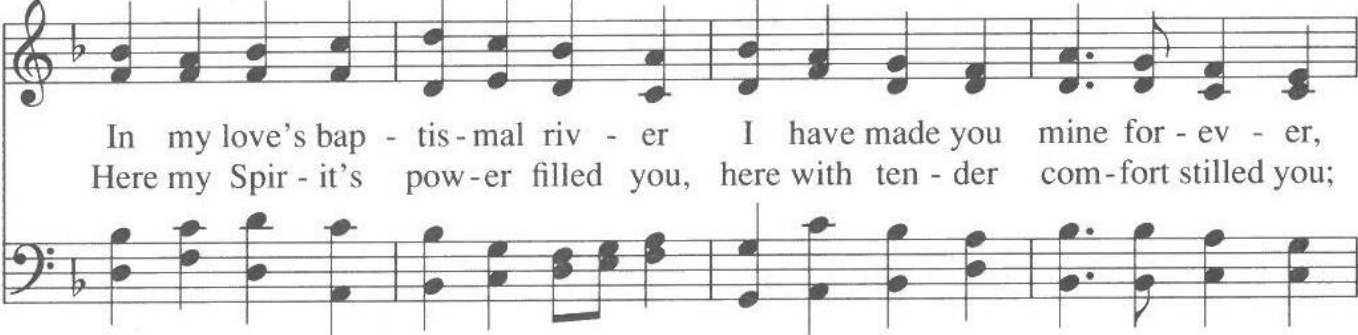
# \* Hymn #82 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



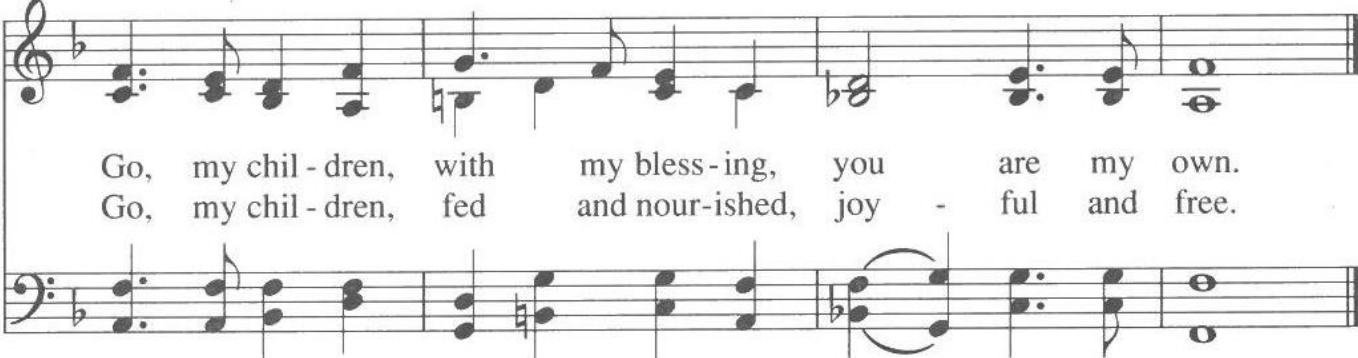
1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;  
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

# Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Sheri Nelson

Office Administrator & Virtual Production: Giuliana Beckwith

Piano & Senior Choir/Handbell Director: Carson Schneider

Deacon: Dave Foley

Liturgist: Su Arnold

Greeter/Usher: Francis Family

Sound: Marce Ediger

Sunday School: Amanda Hooper

Hospitality: Diaconate

## Acknowledgements

All re-printed music is licensed under CCLI 11010370

## Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon and bulletin are available in person or via Facebook, our website, and the UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

## Office Hours

Office hours for the church are Sunday 9:00am to 1:00pm before and after worship, Monday/Wednesday 8:00am-2:00pm, and Thurs. 8:00am-3:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions. If you need immediate assistance outside of office hours, please email - [churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org).

## Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please contact Patti Kubicka via text or call at 763-498-1196. You may also contact the church office though the response may take longer.

## HOLDING IN PRAYER

(Cards and calls are appreciated)

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Nancy Hassett, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, Marion Marcott, Judy Halgren, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Joan Axen, Marv and Nancy Andersen, Jim Kopperud, Tony Rohs.

**Reminder:** Cards are available in the church office.

### **Member Directory:**

The current online member directory is available on our website at <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/elkriverucc/login>.

The password is case sensitive: BeTheChurch



# SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, January 8, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person  
and live via Facebook

CAER Offering

Hospitality by Diaconate

Annual Financial/Budget Meeting  
following worship

Tuesday, January 10, 2022

3:00 p.m. In-person Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, January 11, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne

County Gov't center

5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, January 12, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles

1:00 p.m. Outreach & Justice

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Friday, January 13, 2022

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Sunday, January 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person  
and live via Facebook

Hospitality by Outreach & Justice/  
At Large Members

2:00 p.m. "Winterreise" Concert

Tuesday, January 17, 2022

3:00 p.m. In-person Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, January 18, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne

County Gov't center

5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, January 19, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

7:00 p.m. Diaconate



UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST