



PENBROOK
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ

No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are always welcome here!

JULY 12, 2026
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

56 Banks Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103
717-236-5275
office@penbrookucc.org

WELCOME TO PENBROOK UCC

We are so blessed that you have joined us today, to remember and celebrate the gifts of God. If this is your first time or if you are a long-time member, we hope this service helps you to ponder your relationship with God and neighbor, and that you find your blessing and go from this service to share in the World.

We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you are interested in knowing more about the United Church of Christ or Penbrook UCC or have questions about membership in this family of faith, please feel welcome to speak with any of the leaders listed below.

Those who serve today:

Pastor: Rev. Donna Hughes

Liturgist: Robin Wheeler

Choir Director: Faith Brown

Pianist/Organist/Accompanist: Dawn Shertzer

Acolyte: Ann Bailey

Greeter/Usher: Harvey Bailey

Welcome/Announcements:

Streaming Operator: James Wheeler

PowerPoint Operator: Brian Shertzer

Your Executive Team:

President: Mary Kelly

Vice President: Mel Amago

Secretary: Mackenzie Weinhold

Treasurer: James Wheeler

JULY'S MISSION OFFERING IS CWS HARRISBURG REFUGEE PROGRAM.

About today's worship service:

♦ Throughout today's service, this symbol ♦ indicates an invitation to rise either in body or in spirit.

Bold print indicates a unison response or prayer.

"NCH" refers to the New Century Hymnal.

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Welcome to worship. At the ringing of the steeple bell, please enter a time of quietness in preparation for our worship together.

THE RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

THE PRELUDE

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Traditional/John Newton/Chris Tomlin/Louie Giglio, arr. Philip Keveren

© 2006 Rising Springs Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)/Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)/worshipitogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

CCLI song #4768151

STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER CCLI STREAMING LICENSE #20192205. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

♦ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.

We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.

We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you created life in us and all around us. Open us to receive your gifts of your world and your word that we may be not just hearers of the word, but doers also. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #263

O Spirit of the Living God

Music: Public domain.

Text: © 2006 Wayne Leupold Editions

Onelicense.net song #34161

REPRINTED/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONELICENSE.NET ANNUAL LICENSE WITH
PODCASTING #A-725647. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

O God who loves us, hear our prayer.

So often we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings. We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong.

There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. There are too many horrific stories, and not enough hopeful ones.

So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right, and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us around from that which destroys toward that which heals and brings joy. And hear us again, as we offer you our confession in silence.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE (RESPONSIVE)

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! There is no condemnation!

Let us go out into the world as people made new and free by God.

Amen.

♦ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE AS GOD'S PENTECOST PEOPLE

(The congregation may greet each other with a sign of reconciliation and peace, such as a handshake, an embrace, or other appropriate signs of peace, accompanied by these or similar words: "The Peace of God be with you," and in response, "And also with you.")

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

THE PSALTER (RESPONSIVE)

Psalms 119:105-112 (CEB)

Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey.

¹⁰⁶ **I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules.**

¹⁰⁷ I have been suffering so much – Lord, make me live again according to your promise.

¹⁰⁸ **Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules!**

¹⁰⁹ Though my life is constantly in danger, I won't forget your Instruction.

¹¹⁰ **Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won't stray from your precepts.**

¹¹¹ Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy.

¹¹² **I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (CEB)

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Future with Hope

Mark Burrows

Becky Boone, liturgical dance

© 2022 Choristers Guild

CCLI Song #7246854

STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER CCLI STREAMING LICENSE #20192205. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Onelicense.net song #CGA1672

STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONELICENSE.NET ANNUAL LICENSE WITH PODCASTING #A-725647. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jonathan Morgan

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:1-11 (NRSVUE)

THE MESSAGE

I'm Free!?

♦ THE HYMN NCH #63

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Text and Tune: Public domain.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

PRAYER HYMN

O Lord, Hear Our Prayer

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.

When we call answer us.

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer.

Come and listen to us.

Music: Jacques Berthier. Text: Taizé Community.

© 1982 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

Onelicense.net song #00134

REPRINTED/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONELICENSE.NET ANNUAL LICENSE WITH PODCASTING #A-725647. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our friend, our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

The Blessing

Chris Brown/Cody Carnes/Kari Jobe/Steven Furtick, arr. Dan Musselman

© 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)/Kari Jobe Carnes Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)/Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)/Writer's Roof Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)/Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

CCLI song #7147007

STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER CCLI STREAMING LICENSE #20192205. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

♦ THE DOXOLOGY FOR PENTECOST SEASON NCH #778

**Praise God, the wind that stirs our hearts,
Praise God, the one who grants fresh starts,
Praise God, the source of each new birth,
Praise God who loves all those on earth.**

Music: Public Domain. Words: Rev. John Danner, Pastor of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, Sanibel, Florida. Used by permission.

♦ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (RESPONSIVE)

Living God, you meet us this day with grace that frees and a Spirit that gives life.

You tell us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we cling to that good news with grateful hearts.

As we bring these gifts, we set our minds on you – not on fear or self-interest, but on the life and peace you promise.

Shape us by your Spirit to live generously, to seek the good of our neighbors, and to share in your work of healing and reconciliation. Receive these offerings as signs of our attention being fixed on Christ and our lives opened to your renewing power. We give thanks; we give ourselves, and we trust your Spirit to lead us into abundant life. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #42

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Text and Tune: Public domain.

♦ THE BENEDICTION

♦ THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

NCH #78 (verse 3)

Part in Peace

**Part in peace! Our voices raising, in God's presence always be.
This the worship and the praising, bringing peace to you and me.**

Text: Sarah Flower Adams, 1835. Music: Southern Harmony, 1835.

Harmonization: Carlton R. Young, 1964 © 1965 Abingdon Press.

Onelicense.net song #03971

REPRINTED/STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONELICENSE.NET ANNUAL LICENSE WITH PODCASTING #A-725647. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE POSTLUDE

Free as a Bird

Rend Collective

© 2015 Thankyou Music Ltd (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

CCLI song #7047083

STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER CCLI STREAMING LICENSE #20192205. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Attributions, Licenses and Thanks

- Today's cover image, "Because of Your Love I Am Free," is from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55231> [retrieved July 9, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mckln/4814377195/>.
- Today's Call to Worship and Offertory Prayer are by Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, January 2026; the Opening Prayer is by Rev. Ruth Garwood, as posted on the Worship Ways website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/pentecost-6-july-12/>; and the Prayer of Transformation is from *Words of Grace*, by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good," and is used with permission. See <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>. The Prayer for Illumination is from www.caldwellpresby.org/.
- The Doxology for the Season of Pentecost is by John H. Danner, and is found at the blog *Gifts in Open Hands*, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2014/05/26/2978> [retrieved May 15, 2024]. Used by permission.
- Copyright licenses include CCLI church copyright license #11245783, CCLI Streaming License 20192205, and Onelicense.net annual license with podcasting #A-725647.

Announcements and Information

SUMMER MUSIC

We still need your musical talents! There are a few spots left for people to sign up for summer music while the choir is on hiatus. We still need people to provide special music on **August 9** and **August 23**. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Faith Brown @ brown.fith922@gmail.com.

2026 PUCC FAITH FORMATION SUMMER SESSION

Our Faith Formation Summer Session continues our discussion of topics related to the "Be the Church" affirmations of the UCC. **Today**, we "Embrace Diversity," with Richard Stokes and a teacher from Trinity Preschool sharing the journey of this amazing free school for preschoolers in Harrisburg. Next Sunday, **July 19, 2026**, we consider "Forgive often," as Reverend Donna's friend, Dr. Amy McKiernan, a professor of ethics at Dickinson College, discusses the difficult topic of forgiveness. The following week, **July 26, 2026**, we examine "Fight for the Powerless" with Alex Domingos, an ACLU employee and son of our congregation. Alex will explain Immigration Policy and Advocacy. Each Faith Formation Summer Session begins with breakfast treats at 9:15 and the presentation at 9:30.

JULY 26 IS PRIDE SUNDAY!

Join us July 26 for Pride Sunday, which will be a wonderful celebration for everyone!

JULY'S SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: CWS HARRISBURG REFUGEE PROGRAM

The Church World Service (CWS) Refugee Program in Harrisburg empowers refugees and immigrants to build stable, thriving lives through compassionate services, community partnership, and pathways to legal security, food stability, wellness, and economic opportunity. We worked with CWS in settling the Bisimwa family last year, and saw firsthand how federal budget cuts CWS negatively impacted the organization's ability to serve their clients. On the

third Sunday of July, we will receive our second-mile offering to provide some small help to fill the funding gap experienced by the local CWS Refugee Program, whose motto is “Together, we rise. Together, we welcome. Together, we thrive.” Please ponder the need in your heart and give generously!

MANNA FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Manna Food Pantry needs volunteers on the first three Thursdays and Fridays of each month, for the following: **Thursday Mornings (9:00–11:00 a.m.)** Volunteers help prepare for Thursday evening distribution by setting up tables, picking up eggs, milk, and produce from the Food Bank, unloading deliveries, and organizing produce into baskets or bags.

Thursday Evenings (5:30–7:30 p.m.) Volunteers assist with food distribution by helping clients select items, transporting groceries to vehicles, staffing food stations, and completing cleanup tasks afterward. **Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially needed.**

Friday Mornings (8:00/8:30–11:00 a.m.) Volunteers restock pantry shelves and help unload and store deliveries from the Food Bank truck, which typically arrives anytime between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Gail Mahoney at 717-503-0102 or email manna.foodpantry@gmail.com.

PUCC LENDING LIBRARY

Our Lending Library is feeling lonely in the Ross Room. Please check out the book selection and take a book home to read, or share a book that you loved!

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES

During the moments of quiet this morning, please remember our homebound members and friends, and pray for those affected by violence, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, within our society.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have special prayer requests, you may fill out a prayer request form located in the lobby outside the sanctuary and pass it to the preacher or put it in the wire basket in the office. Or you may email prayerchain@penbrookucc.org so we can send your requests out to the prayer warriors who will lift up your concerns.

COMMUNITY AID PARTNERSHIP

Don't forget our partnership with the Community Aid Foundation, which enables Pucc to share in Community Aid's proceeds. When you drop off your unwanted household goods and clothing to Community Aid's locations in Harrisburg or Mechanicsburg (there are other locations, but those are the closest), provide them with our partner number, 50334, so that Pucc receives credit for the donations.

E-GIVING IS AVAILABLE!

Interested in giving electronically? Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App from either the Google or Apple app store, and make regular giving for the work of God and the kingdom effortless. Questions or concerns or issues with using the app, contact James at treasurer@penbrookucc.org.

MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE FUND

For many years, the membership of this church has given back to itself in order to help out those of our brothers and sisters who find themselves in a momentary pinch. We have been

remiss in reminding you of this important internal ministry, but we find ourselves in a time of year when sudden expenses can crop up. In the past few years, members have received funds for a variety of purposes, from unexpected bills to support during the loss of a loved one. Each gift you make to the Members Assistance Fund is earmarked for this ministry. If you ever need funds, please reach out to the pastor or treasurer for a confidential conversation about what we might be able to assist with.

CHURCH FINANCES – UPDATE

Weekly Income 06/28/2026	Year-to-date Income
Tithes, Offerings, Miscellaneous	
\$ 1,712	\$63,123
Fundraising/Other	
\$ 0	\$ 4,185
Total Income	
\$ 1,712	\$67,308
Weekly Expense 06/28/2026	
\$ 585	\$68,371
Net Surplus (Deficit)	
\$ 1,127	(\$1,062)

SIGN UP! SIGN UP! HELP WITH WORSHIP!

Does the volunteer roster below look a little bare? Please consider volunteering to help with worship by signing up to be an Acolyte, Greeter/ Usher, Lectionary Reader/Liturgist, Purveyor of the Welcome/Announcements, Streaming Operator or PowerPoint Operator. You are here on Sunday anyway, right? Sign-up sheets are on the table outside the rear Sanctuary doors.

PENBROOK UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING JULY 12, 2026:

Today: 9:30 am Summer Faith Formation (ASSR)
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
Tuesday: 2:00 pm Crafters (Crafters' Room, Lower Level)
Wednesday: 7:00 pm NA (FH)
Thursday: 9:30 am Manna Prep (Lower Level)
6:00 pm Manna Food Pantry (Lower Level)
Friday: 9:30 am Manna Prep (Lower Level)

VOLUNTEERS SERVING DURING WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026:

Acolyte: Kenzlie Bailey
Greeter/Usher: Lorna Owens
Lectionary Reader/Liturgist: Tara Mead
Welcome/Announcements:
Streaming Operator:
PowerPoint Operator: Brian Shertzer