



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!

AUGUST 9, 2026
ELEVENTH 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:

Greeter/Usher:

Welcome/Announcements: Dick Stokes

Streaming Operator: James Wheeler

PowerPoint Operator:

Your Executive Team:

President: Mary Kelly

Vice President: Mel Amago

Secretary: Mackenzie Weinhold

Treasurer: James Wheeler

AUGUST'S MISSION OFFERING IS UCC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES.

Did you know...

Through Local Action, the UCC Is Driving Nationwide Change! In March of 2025, we began launching Climate Hope Affiliates! Through this new program, we are starting local chapters across the country to address the interconnected crises of climate change and societal injustice. For us, this is a calling! Learn more about Climate Hope Affiliates. Visit

<https://bit.ly/4bEMVXN>

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

If You Believe

Jim Brickman

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THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

♦ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

God speaks peace to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God.

Where God dwells, steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground and righteousness looks down from the sky.

God gives what is good and we respond with abundant praise!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you speak to us in a voice unexpected and come to us in ways we do not recognize. Never leaving us to our own devices or defenses, you are the ever-present, all-powerful God. Call us out in faith again and again, until we learn to walk with you in steadfast love and faithfulness, and in peace. In the name of him who comes to us upon the waters, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #22

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

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Translation: Madeleine Forell Marshall.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

Lord Jesus, we call upon you. Save us!

We are intimidated by our circumstances, distracted from your purposes, drowning in doubts and fears.

We are presumptuous about your will, belittling others and magnifying ourselves.

We envy the blessings of others, secretly despising their dreams.

We have hardened our hearts to the suffering of our brothers and sisters, feeding ourselves in face of the injustice that holds them captive.

Lord Jesus, who searches our hearts, lift us from sin and help us to walk with you in faith, humility, and brotherly-sisterly love.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE

Our God sees all, knows all, forgives all, restores all through our Lord Jesus Christ. No one who believes in God will be put to shame, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

♦ 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, your word is very near, on our lips and in our hearts. As this Word is read and proclaimed, by the power of your Holy Spirit, make it become in us the word of faith. Then send

us in joy to bring this word to others who also need the good news of salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PSALTER (RESPONSIVE)

Psalms 85:8-13

I will listen to what God the Lord says; God promises peace to God's people, God's faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.

⁹ Surely God is near those who fear God that God's glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

¹² The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

¹³ Righteousness goes before God and prepares the way for God's steps.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 10:5-15

SPECIAL MUSIC

Breath of Dawn

Paul F. Page

Meditation #24 for Organ and Flute

Becky Boone, Flute; Rita Oberman, Organ

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dawn Shertzer

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:22-33

THE MESSAGE

Quit Looking at Your Feet

♦ THE HYMN NCH #502

Dear God, Embracing Humankind

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.

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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 INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

(Next Sunday our second-mile offering will be for UCC Environmental Justice Ministries.)

Because God cares for all without distinction and is generous to all beyond measure, so we, God's people, are to care for all with generosity and gladness. We bring our offerings to be used for God's good purposes in the church and in the world.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Helen H. Lemmel/Griffith Jones, arr. Joseph Martin/David Angerman/Mark Hayes

Text and Tune: Public domain.

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♦ 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 (UNISON)

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. Because there is so much more we can become, and so much more we can do, we pray that our faith will increase; that our practice of generosity will be enlarged; and that our joy in believing will encourage others as we share with them the good news of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #522

I Love to Tell the Story

Public domain.

♦ THE BENEDICTION (RESPONSIVE)

The word of faith is near us, on our lips and in our hearts.

How shall others hear unless we proclaim it?

Go now in the generous grace and favor of our God.

How beautiful are the feet of we who bring good news!

♦ 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.

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THE POSTLUDE

Leap of Faith

Alexander Hauer/Christopher Nissen/Thuy My Pham

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- Today's Liturgy is from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Year A*.
- 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.
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Announcements and Information

2026 PUCC FAITH FORMATION SUMMER SESSION CONTINUES

Summer Faith Formation continues our discussion of topics related to the “Be the Church” affirmations of the UCC. On **August 16**, we focus on “Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources,” with Lori Holzinger sharing information about organ donation. Her daughter's tragic death became life to many folks who received her organs. Lori will also talk about myths of organ donation. On **August 23**, we focus on “Fight for the Powerless,” and Pastor Donna will share what she learned during her time in Palestine earlier this summer. On **August 30**, we focus on “Embrace Diversity” as Tita Domingos, Ruth Dunnewold and Becky Boone share their photos and impressions from their trip to Tanzania earlier this year. Summer Session begins with breakfast treats at 9:15 and presentations at 9:30 to 10:15.

AUGUST MUNCH-N-MINGLE ROAD TRIP

MUNCH AND MINGLE, postponed from last week due to inclement weather, goes on a field trip **TODAY**, August 9! We will be meeting, rain or shine, after the service at the home of Eva O'Diam and Mary Kelly at 608 Sandra Avenue in Harrisburg. THEY HAVE A SWIMMING POOL and you're welcome to bring your suit. Eva and Mary will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. If you would like a vegetarian option, bring your own food for the grill. Yard games will also be available. If you have a favorite chair, you can bring it. Plan to spend some time and bring the family!

AUGUST'S SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: UCC ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES

Our August special mission offering benefits UCC Environmental Ministries, which comprises two core programs, Creation Justice Churches and Climate Hope Affiliates. The Creation Justice Churches program guides congregations in discerning how they can best embody a commitment to care for God's creation as a central part of their DNA. Churches that complete this discernment process are designated as Creation Justice Churches. The Climate Hope Affiliates program addresses the interconnected crises of climate change and societal injustice by working to advance or protect federal legislation through ongoing relationships with members of Congress, the local media, and the community. Our second-mile offering on the third Sunday in August will be directed to this UCC program.

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 has relocated, and 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 07/26/2026	Year-to-date Income
Tithes, Offerings, Miscellaneous	
\$ 1,272	\$72,656
Fundraising/Other	
\$ 150	\$ 4,335
Total Income	
\$ 1,422	\$76,991
Weekly Expense 07/26/2026	Year-to-date Expense
\$ 914	\$77,910
Net Surplus (Deficit)	
\$ 508	(\$ 919)

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 AUGUST 9, 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, AUGUST 16, 2026:

Acolyte:
Greeter/Usher: Lorna Owens
Lectionary Reader/Liturgist:
Welcome/Announcements:
Streaming Operator: Jonathan Morgan
PowerPoint Operator: