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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: Mitch Amago

Choir Director: Faith Brown

Pianist/Organist/Accompanist: Dawn Shertzer

Acolyte:

Greeter/Usher:

Welcome/Announcements: Eva O'Diam

Streaming Operator:

PowerPoint Operator:

Your Executive Team:

President: Mary Kelly

Vice President: Mel Amago

Secretary: Mackenzie Weinhold

Treasurer: James Wheeler

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

Still My Soul, Be Still (With Be Still My Soul)

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, arr. James Koertz

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CCLI song #5469284

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THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

♦ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

♦ OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the great mercy and grace that draw us close to your holiness. Flow through our worship and through our lives with your holy presence and your forgiving grace, that we may be people of holy love and gracious forgiveness. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive) O God, we seek your mercy...

yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship.

The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend;

still, we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items.

We are eager to do your judging.

And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance.

Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts.

Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE

God's gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew, and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to 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

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

THE PSALTER (RESPONSIVE)

Psalm 103:1-12

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—

³**who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,**

⁴**who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶**The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷God made known God's ways to Moses, God's acts to the people of Israel. ⁸**The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.** ⁹God will not always accuse, nor will he keep God's anger forever.

¹⁰**God does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear God;

¹²**as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

SPECIAL MUSIC

Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Koinonia Singers

Words and music by Edwin Willmington

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CHILDREN'S TIME

Jonathan Morgan

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

THE MESSAGE

◆ THE HYMN NCH #298

O Savior, for the Saints

Tune: William Walter, 1872.

Text: Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

Word alterations, © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.

Onelicense.net song #94259

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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

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

♦ 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)

Merciful Deliverer, you part the waters when we feel trapped and forgive debts too great to repay. In the face of fear and brokenness, you lead us with compassion and grace.

May the gifts we bring today reflect our deep gratitude for your mercy.

Let them support ministries of reconciliation and acts of healing, justice, and welcome.

Teach us to lead not with judgment, but with generosity, recognizing that what we have, we hold by your mercy. Bless these offerings and bless us as stewards of your kingdom, always seeking to build a world where grace is not rare but abundant. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #23

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Public domain.

♦ THE BENEDICTION

Followers of Christ, go now in the blessing and assurance that we are a forgiven people empowered by grace to forgive and heal the divisions that keep us from truly loving God, self, neighbor, and all creation with the fullness of our beings. Amen.

♦ 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

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THE POSTLUDE

I Will Rise

Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio, Jesse Reeves, Matt Maher, arr. Janice Faber

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- Today's liturgy: Call to Worship, Prayer of Dedication, Benediction by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Prayer of Confession and Words of Grace adapted from Bill Wessner and posted on [Confession RCL blog](#), Prayer of Illumination by 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.
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Announcements and Information

WRITING OF THE NAMES

Join with an interfaith group of neighbors in writing the names and ages of the more than 73,677 Palestinians killed over nearly 3 years of genocide. Please join us in this act of lament, protest, and prayer, as the genocide continues. Two dates at PUCG to help: Sep 20 12-3 and Sep 22 10-3.

FALL FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation begins again TODAY in the Ross Room (across from the Sanctuary) at 9:30 a.m. We will be studying the book *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang. This is billed as "A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds." Please let me know if you are interested, so I may order a book for you! Becky Boone.

SEPTEMBER'S SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: FOCUS ON CHILDREN (HOFFMAN HOMES)

Our September special mission offering focuses on children, and will benefit Hoffman Homes for Youth, which has been dedicated to serving individuals and families in Pennsylvania for over a century. Hoffman Homes originated from gift by George and Agnes Hoffman when they deeded their farm to the Reformed Church (now the United Church of Christ) in 1907, with one heartfelt stipulation: the property must become a home for children in need. In 1910, Hoffman

Homes officially opened its doors as a children's home in which children grew up on a working farm, learning alongside one another and attending local public schools. Hoffman Homes evolved over the years, and became a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility in 1990, dedicating itself fully to serving young people (ages 7 to 21) with complex mental health needs. Many of the individuals who come to Hoffman Homes have experienced significant trauma, loss, or instability, and previous services have not been enough. Here, they find a community built around healing, with Hoffman Homes offering a comprehensive range of, including residential treatment: 24/7 therapeutic care in a safe, structured environment; therapeutic shelter: short-term stabilization for individuals in crisis; transitional living: building skills for independent living; and outpatient therapy: providing accessible mental health care for the community. Our second-mile offering on the third Sunday in September will be directed to this UCC-supported program. Please give generously.

AUTUMN CLEANUP – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Indoor & Outdoor Autumn Cleanup around Penbrook UCC is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 9:00 am to noon. Details to follow!

RETREAT: SAVE THE DATE

November 6-8, 2026, at Living Waters Camp (UCC). Cost is \$50.00 per person and we are looking for 1-2 people to coordinate food. Since we will be there in November, we will focus on gratitude practices for a time of rest, relaxation, fellowship, fun and spiritual connection. For more information or to sign up for the retreat by October 1, contact Rev. Donna.

HARRISBURG FREE PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL

As a great follow-up to Rev. Donna's presentation about her visit to Palestine, please consider attending one or more of six films being offered as part of the Harrisburg Free Palestine Film Festival the last two weekends of September (18, 19, 20; 25, 26 and 27). Sponsored by the Sprint Committee for Palestine, with partners Harrisburg Quaker Meeting, Grace United Methodist Church, Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, Islamic Center of Pennsylvania, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, the films offered show at different locations and times on the indicated dates. Tickets are free, food trucks, light refreshments or dinner will be offered at each location, and discussion follows each film. For the full schedule and to obtain free tickets, go to <https://hbgfreepalestine.org/schedule--times>.

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 08/30/2026	Year-to-date Income
Tithes, Offerings, Miscellaneous	
\$ 1,707	\$84,228
Fundraising/Other	
\$ 0	\$ 5,294
Total Income	
\$ 1,707	\$89,522
Weekly Expense 08/30/2026	
\$ 2,056	\$91,646
Net Surplus (Deficit)	
(\$349)	(\$2,124)

PENBROOK UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13, 2026:

Today: 9:15 am Koinonia Singers rehearsal (ASSR)
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
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)

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.

VOLUNTEERS SERVING DURING WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026:

Acolyte:

Greeter/Usher: Lorna Owens

Lectionary Reader/Liturgist: Robin Wheeler

Welcome/Announcements: Dick Stokes Streaming Operator:

PowerPoint Operator: