



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!

OCTOBER 18, 2026
TWENTY-FIRST 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: Mary Kelly

Choir Director: Faith Brown

Pianist/Accompanist: Dawn Shertzer

Bell Choir Director: Ruth Dunnewold

Acolyte:

Greeter/Usher: Harvey Bailey

Welcome/Announcements: Mel Amago

Streaming Operator: Jonathan Morgan

PowerPoint Operator: Eva O'Diam

Your Executive Team:

President: Mary Kelly

Vice President: Mel Amago

Secretary: Mackenzie Weinhold

Treasurer: James Wheeler

OCTOBER'S MISSION IS FOCUS ON NEIGHBORS: NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS.

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

As the Deer

Martin Nystrom, arr. Philip Keveren

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CCLI song #1431

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THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

♦ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

May the nations quake and the peoples tremble.

God sits enthroned in the heavens, bringing justice and righteousness.

May the mountains tremble and the seas roar.

God's glory is stronger than the foundation of the earth.

May the humble seek the living God.

God's goodness and mercy sustain the faithful in times of trial. Come, let us worship the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone. Therefore we offer ourselves to you, in service, love, and praise. Use us for the glory of your realm and the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

♦ HYMN NCH #1

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Public domain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not regard us with partiality, but with the grace of Christ Jesus deals with each of us according to our need. With gratitude for this amazing grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND YEARNING (Unison)

What a debt we owe to you, You have given us all things in Christ and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, plot to entrap the innocent, mock your truth with empty praise, and put your patience to the test. Forgive us, O God, and by your grace restore in us the image of your face; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! Let the sea roar with laughter, the fields shout in celebration, and the forests sing with joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

♦ 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

Holy One, true and living God, through the message of the gospel and the power of your Spirit make us imitators of the Lord: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

²The Lord is great in Zion; God is exalted over all the peoples.

³Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is God!

⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ **Extol the Lord our God; worship at God's footstool. Holy is God!**

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among God's priests, Samuel also was among those who called on God's name. They cried to the Lord, and God answered them.

⁷ **God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept God's decrees and the statutes that God gave them.**

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ **Extol the Lord our God, and worship at God's holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Exodus 33:12-23

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Spiritual, arr. Bruce Greer

A-pealing Praise Handbell Choir

Isaac Salapa, Soprano Saxophone

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THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jonathan Morgan

(Following the Children's Message, children are invited to go downstairs with our children's leaders to attend Children's Church.)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:15-22

MESSAGE

♦ HYMN NCH #543

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

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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Onelicense.net song #00134

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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

3rd Sunday Mission Giving to Neighbors in Need/Church World Service Blankets
The Lord made the heavens, and all the earth belongs to God. As Jesus taught us, let us give to God the things that are God's own.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY *Draw Me Close to You* Kelly Carpenter, arr. Betacoustic

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CCLI song #1459484

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♦ THE DOXOLOGY FOR PENTECOST SEASON NCH #778

**Praise God, who fills each cup and plate,
Whose table's wide and love is great,
From broken bread, may all be fed,
And justice rise where fear has spread.**

Text by Matt Nutter, as shared in a Facebook post by Shirley Savage dated 09/03/2025,

<https://www.facebook.com/share/166ukvt33K/>.

Music: Public Domain.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

All honor and majesty, strength and beauty Ps. 96:6–8 are yours, Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth. Let these simple offerings we bring be a sign of the great glory that is due to your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #76 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1964. Tune: Welsh folk melody, harmonization by Leland Sateren, 1972.

Descant © 1993 The Pilgrim Press, Onelicense.net song #101714

Text © 1964 World Library Publications, Onelicense.net song #40362.

Tune: Setting/harmonization © 1972 Augsburg Fortress, Onelicense.net song #AF20220453.

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♦ 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

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- Today's liturgy is from Call to Worship by Michael Beu, Abingdon Worship Annual, the rest of the liturgy Feasting on the Word Worship Companion for 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

FALL FAITH FORMATION

Fall Faith Formation, meeting in the Ross Room (across from the Sanctuary) at 9:30 a.m., is currently 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 talk to Becky Boone if you are interested in participating and require a book.

TODAY: OCTOBER'S SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: FOCUS ON NEIGHBORS: NEIGHBORS IN NEED AND CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS

Our October special mission offering focuses on neighbors, and will benefit the UCC Neighbors in Need program as well as Church World Service Blankets. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Our second-mile offering for the third Sunday in October is TODAY but we take contributions to these programs throughout October. Thank you for your support and generosity!

OCTOBER BLANKET SUNDAY COLLECTIONS CONTINUE

Blanket Sunday, last week, kicked off our October Blanket Campaign. Throughout the month of October, we will be collecting contributions for the Church World Service Blanket Program. CWS Blanket Program funds purchase and ship blankets worldwide, wherever they are needed. A CWS blanket costs just \$10 but has a multitude of uses. With climate change contributing to ever more devastating storms, fires and flooding, and with refugees from those events as well as earthquakes, war and civil unrest around the world, the need for blankets is remains significant. When we raise \$1000, CWS will send us an additional patch for our blanket banner in recognition of our contribution. Penbrook UCC has met this goal every year since 1987, so please pitch in to help keep the record of success and worldwide assistance going! When everyone contributes, we all share in the success. If you have questions, call Ruth Dunnewold, our Blanket Sunday coordinator, at 717-599-1606 (cell) or email her at rdunnewold@verizon.net.

BOOK CLUB STARTS SOON

Rev. Donna and Rev. Eva will be starting a monthly Book Club beginning October 27, 2026, from 7 pm – 8:30 pm, and continuing on the 2nd Tuesday of November, in the Ross Room. We will begin with the same book that Faith Formation is using, *Separation of Church and Hate*, by John Fugelsang. We will read half of the book for the first time and then half for November. If purchasing the book is a hardship, see Rev. Donna.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WORKING FAMILIES WITH TAX PREPARATION

Volunteers are needed to offer free tax preparation to help working families receive the federal and state tax credits they are eligible for. The service is offered through the Money in Your Pocket program, a community collaboration of organizations committed to the economic stability of local families. Volunteers are also needed to serve as greeters (no tax preparing required for this position). **No previous experience is required and training is provided.** Scheduling is flexible. For those interested in learning more, weekly virtual information sessions will be held throughout October and November. For more information, contact Heidi Neuhaus at 717-724-4055 or by email at hneuhaus@uwcr.org.

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.

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.

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.

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 kin-dom effortless. Questions or concerns or issues with using the app, contact James at treasurer@penbrookucc.org.

CHURCH FINANCES – UPDATE

Weekly Income 10/04/2026	Year-to-date Income
Tithes, Offerings, Miscellaneous	
\$ 7,723	\$101,884
Fundraising/Other	
\$ 0	\$ 5,332
Total Income	
\$ 7,723	\$107,216
Weekly Expense 10/04/2026	
\$ 3,285	\$106,657
Net Surplus (Deficit)	
\$ 4,438	\$ 559

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.

PENBROOK UCC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 18, 2026:

Today:	9:15 am	Koinonia Singers rehearsal (ASSR)
	9:30 am	Faith Formation (Ross Room)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	A-pealing Praise rehearsal (ASSR)
Monday:	7:00 pm	River City Singers' rehearsal (ASSR)
Tuesday:	7:00 pm	Hook and Needle Fellowship (ASSR)
Wednesday:	7:00 pm	NA (FH)
Thursday:	7:00 pm	VMST (ASSR)

SIGN UP! SIGN UP! HELP WITH WORSHIP!

Does the volunteer roster below look a little bare? You know it does! Please volunteer 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, OCTOBER 25, 2026:

Acolyte:

Greeter/Usher:

Lectionary Reader/Liturgist: Robin Wheeler

Welcome/Announcements:

Streaming Operator: James Wheeler

PowerPoint Operator: Mel Amago